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ABSTRACT

Studies on the time bachelor's degree recipients required to earn their degrees at California State University (CSU) and the University of California during the years 1975 to 1985, were reviewed by the California Postsecondary Education Commission. The California Legislature requested information on: the number of graduates, by campus and ethnicity, who graduated in 4 or 5 academic years or longer; the effect of impacted majors on average time to degree; and reasons why students took longer than 4 years to graduate. The universities were allowed to use existing information for the reports; however, the Commission found this data to be inadequate. CSU's data on graduation, continuation, and tracking rates covered only 1973-1978. These rates are reported by students' category of admission, ethnicity, sex, and campus. Time to degree at the University of California is reported for regularly admitted freshmen who graduated in 1985. Priorities for improving the data are recommended: effects of transfer on attrition and time to degree; effect of impacted majors and course availability on attrition and time to degree; effect of admission status; and insight about time required to earn degrees at comparable public universities in other states. California Senate Bill No. 2066 is appended. (SW)

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Summary

Senate Bill 2066 (Morgan, Chapter 991, Statutes of 1986) directed the California State University and the University of California to review (1) the time that their bachelor's degree recipients between 1975 and 1985 needed to earn their degrees, (2) the number of graduates, by campus and ethnicity, who graduated in four or five academic years or longer; (3) the effect of impacted majors on average time to degree; and (4) the reasons why students took longer than four years to complete their degrees. It indicated that the segments could use existing information to answer these questions and that they should forward their reports to the Commission, which was to send its comments and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by March 15.

The Commission adopted this report on March 16, 1987, on recommendation of its Policy Evaluation Committee. In its review of the segments' reports, the Commission found that existing data are not adequate to answer the Legislature's questions. Thus the Commission concludes that little progress can be made with the segments' reports in resolving policy issues concerning the average time required to complete the baccalaureate. If the Legislature wishes to pursue the matter further, the Commission recommends four priorities for improving data as a prelude to any further study (pp. 10-11):

1. Effect of transfer on attrition and time to degree;
2. Effect of impacted majors and course availability on attrition and time to degree;
3. Effect of admission status; and
4. Insight about time required to earn degrees at comparable public universities in other states.

Additional copies of the report may be obtained from the Publications Office of the Commission. Further information about the report may be obtained from Jane V. Wellman of the Commission staff at (916) 322-8017.

TIME REQUIRED TO EARN THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE

A Commission Review of Studies by the California State University and the University of California in Response to Senate Bill 2066 (1986)

CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION
Third Floor • 1020 Twelfth Street • Sacramento, California 95814-3985

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Time Required to Earn the Bachelor's Degree

Charge to the Commission

Senate Bill 2066 (Morgan, Chapter 991, Statutes of 1986), reproduced in the Appendix, directed the California State University and the University of California to use existing information about their undergraduates who had received their bachelor's degrees between 1975 and 1985 in order to determine the number and proportion, "by campus and ethnicity, who (1) graduated in four academic years, (2) graduated in between four and five academic years, (3) graduated in more than five academic years, and (4) were confronted with impacted majors after completing their lower division coursework" and the reasons for the delay of "a sample of students who took more than four years to graduate."

SB 2066 directed the segments to transmit their studies to the Postsecondary Education Commission by December 1, 1986, which was then to forward its review and comments with recommendations to the Governor and the education policy committees of the Legislature by March 15, 1987.

The Commission submits this report in response to SB 2066. Neither of the reports submitted to the Commission by the California State University and the University of California in response to that directive answers as much as half the questions raised by the Legislature in that bill or contains data about the effects of impacted majors or the reasons for delayed graduation. The segments cannot be faulted for being unresponsive to the bill, however, since it expressly allowed them to depend on existing information in preparing their reports. Yet the absence of data on these issues means that little progress can be made in resolving policy issues concerning the average time required to complete the baccalaureate.

The California State University

The California State University used as its report on the subject *Those Who Stay-Phase 5: Student Continuance in the California State University*, the fifth in a series of reports produced since 1976 by the Division of Analytical Studies in the Office of the Chancellor on the subject of student retention and attrition in the State University. It completed this report in January 1985, prior to the passage of the legislation, and thus the report was not tailored to its specific requirements. For example, rather than focusing on students who graduated between 1975 and 1985, it focused on students who entered as first-time freshmen between Fall 1973 and Fall 1978 and who were either still enrolled in Fall of 1983 or who had earned a degree by then. Not included are students who transferred into the State University after their freshman year or those who transferred from the State University to other institutions. As a result, it does not indicate what proportion graduated in four years or more than five, what proportion were confronted with impacted majors, or the reasons for delay of those who took more than five years to graduate.

Despite these lacks, the report contains data that indicate only about 8 percent of the first-time freshmen who enrolled in Fall 1978 earned a bachelor's degree from the State University within four years. According to Commission staff calculations of the 26,093 freshmen who entered in Fall 1978, 2,097 -- or 8.0 percent -- graduated by Fall 1982. The report shows that among Fall 1978 freshmen, 26 percent earned a degree within five years, compared to close to 30 percent of Fall 1973 freshmen. This decline over the five years is accounted for by a 4 percent increase over this period in students who continued in the State University after five years rather than by students who dropped out. The percentage of students who continued in the system without receiving a degree after five years rose from 15 percent for Fall 1973 freshmen to 19 percent for Fall 1978 freshmen. Data on the five-year graduation, continuation, and "tracking" rates for successive groups of these freshmen appears in Display 1 on page 2.

Display 1 shows that, after five years, the proportion of freshmen who had either graduated or were still enrolled in the system fluctuated between 43 and 44 percent over the five years of freshman classes. The

DISPLAY 1 *Five-Year Continuation Rates, Graduation Rates, and Tracking Rates for Successive Groups of California State University-Entering Freshmen, Systemwide, 1973 to 1978*

Rate Category and Comparison Group	First-Time Freshmen Entering					
	Fall 1973	Fall 1974	Fall 1975	Fall 1976	Fall 1977	Fall 1978
Continuing as Undergraduates:						
Total Freshmen	.150	.148	.169	.180	.181	.187
Total Females	.130	130	.148	.158	.160	.166
Total Males	.173	.169	.193	.205	.204	.211
Regular Admits	.154	.153	.176	.185	.186	.190
Alternative Admits	.130	.061	.053	.144	.121	.126
Special Admits	.128	.125	.140	.153	.155	.170
Earning a Degree:						
Total Freshmen	.295	.279	.264	.257	.260	.257
Total Females	.320	.301	.289	.279	.280	.281
Total Males	.267	.255	.236	.231	.237	.229
Regular Admits	.330	.312	.297	.287	.291	.292
Alternative Admits	.097	.113	.097	.096	.149	.092
Special Admits	.099	.107	.097	.091	.083	.078
Number Tracked:						
Total Freshmen	.445	.427	.434	.436	.441	.444
Total Females	.450	.431	.437	.437	.440	.447
Total Males	.440	.424	.429	.436	.441	.440
Regular Admits	.484	.465	.473	.472	.477	.483
Alternative Admits	.227	.174	.150	.240	.270	.223
Special Admits	.227	.232	.237	.244	.238	.248

Source: The California State University, 1985, Table 11, page 11.

State University refers to this percentage as the "tracking" percentage -- that is, those students who could still be "tracked" in the system or had earned a degree in five years. The obverse of this five-year "tracking" percentage is the five-year attrition rate, which, of necessity, fluctuated between 56 and 57 percent.

In addition to these overall rates, the State University provides more detailed information about differential rates by students' category of admission, ethnicity, sex, and campus. The findings are:

Category of admission: The largest differences in graduation and tracking rates occur between regularly admissible freshmen and those who entered the system as special or alternative admits. ("Special" admits are those students who are academically ineligible for regular admission, while "alternative" admits are adult students, employees of the university, students in pilot programs, or students eligible on the basis of the High School Proficiency Examination.) Close to 30 percent of regularly admissible freshmen graduated within five years, as compared to between 8 and 9 percent for special and alternative admits (Displays 2, 3, and 4). Forty-eight percent of regularly admissible freshmen can be tracked after five years, compared to 25 percent for special admits and 22 percent for alternative admits.

Ethnicity: Large differences in graduation and tracking rates are observed as well among ethnic groups. Regularly admitted Asian students have a tracking rate of 57 percent after five years -- the highest rate reported for any ethnic group -- followed by Filipino students at 51 percent, white students at

DISPLAY 2 *Continuation Rates, Graduation Rates, and Tracking Rates for Successive Fall Terms of 21,796 Regular Admits to the California State University in Fall 1978*

Enrolled as:	Fall 1979	Fall 1980	Fall 1981	Fall 1982	Fall 1983
Undergraduate:					
Freshmen	.466	.028	.009	.005	.002
Sophomore	.271	.396	.062	.017	.007
Junior	.002	.192	.331	.088	.032
Senior	.000	.004	.167	.315	.149
Total	.740	.620	.570	.425	.190
Post-Baccalaureate/Graduate	.001	.000	.001	.022	.039
Total Enrolled	.741	.620	.570	.447	.229
Earning Degree:					
Bachelor's Only	.000	.000	.003	.093	.292
Bachelor's and Master's	.000	.000	.000	.000	.001
Total	.000	.000	.004	.093	.293
Total Tracked	.740	.620	.573	.518	.483

Source: The California State University, 1985, Table 5, page 6.

DISPLAY 3 *Continuation Rates, Graduation Rates, and Tracking Rates for Successive Fall Terms of 4,091 Special Admits to the California State University in Fall 1978*

Enrolled as:	Fall 1979	Fall 1980	Fall 1981	Fall 1982	Fall 1983
Undergraduate:					
Freshmen	.547	.041	.010	.006	.002
Sophomore	.099	.372	.082	.024	.009
Junior	.000	.042	.245	.085	.036
Senior	.001	.000	.033	.175	.122
Total	.646	.456	.370	.290	.170
Post-Baccalaureate/Graduate	.001	.000	.000	.004	.008
Total Enrolled	.648	.456	.370	.294	.179
Earning Degree:					
Bachelor's Only	.000	.000	.000	.018	.078
Bachelor's and Master's	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
Total	.000	.000	.000	.018	.078
Total Tracked	.646	.456	.370	.308	.248

Source: The California State University, 1985, Table 7, page 6.

DISPLAY 4 Continuation Rates, Graduation Rates, and Tracking Rates for Successive Fall Terms of 206 Alternative Admits to the California State University in Fall 1978

Enrolled as:	Fall 1979	Fall 1980	Fall 1981	Fall 1982	Fall 1983
Undergraduate:					
Freshmen	.403	.073	.029	.005	.010
Sophomore	.097	.204	.078	.044	.005
Junior	.000	.058	.155	.063	.049
Senior	.005	.005	.039	.150	.063
Total	.505	.340	.301	.262	.126
Post-Baccalaureate/Graduate	.005	.005	.000	.000	.015
Total Enrolled	.510	.345	.301	.262	.141
Earning Degree:					
Bachelor's Only	.000	.005	.010	.019	.092
Bachelor's and Master's	.000	.000	.000	.005	.005
Total	.000	.005	.010	.024	.097
Total Tracked	.505	.345	.311	.286	.223

Source: The California State University (1985), Table 10, page 10.

50 percent, Hispanic and Pacific Islander students at 44 percent, Mexican-American students at 42 percent, American Indian students at 41 percent, and Black students at 39 percent (Display 5, page 5). Tracking rates by ethnicity follow a similar pattern for special admits, although at a lower level (Display 6, page 6).

Sex: Slight differences occur in the time to degree between men and women. Close to 10 percent of women who were freshmen in 1978 graduated within four years, as opposed to 6 percent for men (Displays 7 and 8, page 7). The proportion of women graduating increased to 28 percent after five years, compared to only 23 percent of men. A slightly higher proportion of men than women remained in the system after five years -- 23 percent, compared to 21 percent.

Campus: Among the 19 campuses of the State University, San Luis Obispo is the highest in both graduation and tracking rates (39 and 55 percent, respectively), followed by Fresno, Chico, and Humboldt (Display 9, page 8). The campuses with the lowest graduation and tracking rates are in declining order, San Bernardino, Hayward, Los Angeles, Sonoma, and Dominguez Hills (with the last 18 and 32 percent, respectively). The reasons for these differences and whether the campuses with low graduation and tracking rates have higher transfer rates are not known.

University of California

The University of California submitted its *Persistence and Graduation Rates for Regularly Admitted Freshmen, 1979-84* to the Commission in February 1987. Its report focuses on the time to degree for students who received their bachelor's degree in 1985. Only students who enrolled as first-time freshmen on a University of California general campus were tracked. The report builds on previous work by the University (Kissler, 1980) and the Commission (1985), which concluded that approximately 60 percent of all entering freshmen over the 1972 to 1976 period graduated from their initial campus in five years and 20 percent more graduated from some other campus or institution after transferring.

The data used for those previous studies is no longer available on a systemwide basis. Systemwide averages are not available from the new study because

DISPLAY 5 *Five-Year Continuation Rates, Graduation Rates, and Tracking Rates of California State University First-Time Freshmen Regular Admits in Fall 1978 by Ethnic Group*

Ethnic Group	Sex	Enrolled Fall 1978	Continuation* Number	Continuation* Rate	Graduation** Number	Graduation** Rate	Tracking Rate
All Ethnic Groups	Female	11,884	1,969	.166	3,782	.318	.484
	Male	9,912	2,183	.220	2,593	.262	.482
	Total	21,796	4,152	.190	6,375	.292	.483
American Indian	Female	118	16	.136	28	.237	.373
	Male	110	28	.255	21	.191	.445
	Total	228	44	.193	49	.215	.408
Asian	Female	741	180	.243	256	.345	.588
	Male	655	178	.272	184	.281	.553
	Total	1,396	358	.256	440	.315	.572
Black Non-Hispanic	Female	428	81	.189	83	.194	.383
	Male	222	57	.257	31	.140	.396
	Total	650	138	.212	114	.175	.388
Filipino	Female	157	41	.261	37	.236	.497
	Male	89	28	.315	21	.236	.551
	Total	246	69	.280	58	.236	.516
Mexican-American	Female	503	109	.217	115	.229	.445
	Male	400	99	.248	59	.148	.395
	Total	903	208	.230	174	.193	.423
Other Hispanic	Female	162	30	.185	37	.228	.414
	Male	145	44	.303	25	.172	.476
	Total	307	74	.241	62	.202	.443
Pacific Islander	Female	45	9	.200	12	.267	.467
	Male	44	8	.182	10	.227	.409
	Total	89	17	.191	22	.247	.438
White Non-Hispanic	Female	6,692	996	.149	2,361	.353	.502
	Male	5,432	1,143	.210	1,588	.292	.503
	Total	12,124	2,139	.176	3,949	.326	.502
Unknown	Female	3,038	507	.167	853	.281	.448
	Male	2,815	598	.212	654	.232	.445
	Total	5,853	1,105	.189	1,507	.257	.446

* Continuing as an undergraduate Fall 1983.
** Earning a bachelor's degree through 1982-83.

Source: California State University, 1985, Table 8, page 8.

DISPLAY 6 *Five-Year Continuation Rates, Graduation Rates, and Tracking Rates of California State University First-Time Freshmen Special Admits in Fall 1978 by Ethnic Group*

Ethnic Group	Sex	Enrolled Fall 1978	Continuation* Number	Continuation* Rate	Graduation** Number	Graduation** Rate	Tracking Rate
All Ethnic Groups	Female	2,119	353	.167	173	.082	.248
	Male	1,972	344	.174	146	.074	.248
	Total	4,091	697	.170	319	.078	.248
American Indian	Female	29	1	.034	5	.172	.207
	Male	19	3	.158	0	.000	.158
	Total	48	4	.083	5	.104	.188
Asian	Female	87	19	.218	13	.149	.368
	Male	97	30	.309	10	.103	.412
	Total	184	49	.266	23	.125	.391
Black Non-Hispanic	Female	747	116	.155	52	.070	.225
	Male	452	84	.186	32	.071	.257
	Total	1,199	200	.167	84	.070	.237
Filipino	Female	35	10	.286	4	.114	.400
	Male	33	10	.303	4	.121	.424
	Total	68	20	.294	8	.118	.412
Mexican-American	Female	320	66	.206	11	.034	.241
	Male	360	70	.194	16	.044	.239
	Total	680	136	.200	27	.040	.240
Other Hispanic	Female	49	10	.204	3	.061	.265
	Male	45	6	.133	1	.022	.156
	Total	94	16	.170	4	.043	.213
Pacific Islander	Female	3	2	.667	1	.333	1.000
	Male	6	0	.000	0	.000	.000
	Total	9	2	.222	1	.111	.333
White Non-Hispanic	Female	271	47	.173	45	.166	.339
	Male	324	52	.160	49	.151	.312
	Total	595	99	.166	94	.158	.324
Unknown	Female	578	82	.142	39	.067	.209
	Male	636	89	.140	34	.053	.193
	Total	1,214	171	.141	73	.060	.201

* Continuing as an undergraduate Fall 1983.
** Earning a bachelor's degree through 1982-83.

Source: California State University, 1985, Table 9, page 8.

DISPLAY 7 *Continuation Rates, Graduation Rates, and Tracking Rates for Successive Fall Terms of 14,102 Fall 1978 First-Time Freshman Women in the California State University*

Enrolled as:	Fall 1979	Fall 1980	Fall 1981	Fall 1982	Fall 1983
Undergraduate:					
Freshmen	.475	.028	.008	.004	.002
Sophomore	.252	.384	.059	.017	.006
Junior	.001	.177	.310	.079	.030
Senior	.000	.002	.158	.284	.128
Total	.728	.591	.536	.384	.166
Post-Baccalaureate/Graduate	.001	.000	.001	.027	.042
Total Enrolled	.730	.592	.536	.411	.208
Earning Degree:					
Bachelor's Only	.000	.000	.002	.096	.281
Bachelor's and Master's	.000	.000	.000	.000	.001
Total	.000	.000	.002	.096	.282
Total Tracked	.728	.592	.538	.480	.447

Source: California State University, 1985, Table 4, page 4.

DISPLAY 8 *Continuation Rates, Graduation Rates, and Tracking Rates for Successive Fall Terms of 11,991 Fall 1978 First-Time Freshman Men in the California State University*

Enrolled as:	Fall 1979	Fall 1980	Fall 1981	Fall 1982	Fall 1983
Undergraduate:					
Freshmen	.483	.033	.010	.006	.003
Sophomore	.232	.400	.073	.021	.009
Junior	.002	.155	.324	.097	.037
Senior	.001	.005	.130	.300	.163
Total	.718	.592	.537	.424	.211
Post-Baccalaureate/Graduate	.001	.000	.001	.010	.024
Total Enrolled	.719	.592	.537	.434	235
Earning Degree:					
Bachelor's Only	.000	.000	.004	.062	.229
Bachelor's and Master's	.000	.000	.000	.001	001
Total	.000	.001	.004	.062	.230
Total Tracked	.718	.592	.540	486	.440

Source: California State University, 1985, Table 5, page 5.

DISPLAY 9 *Five-Year Continuation Rates, Graduation Rates, and Tracking Rates for California State University Fall 1978 First-Time Freshmen, by Campus, Arranged by Total Tracked*

Campus	Enrolled Fall 1978	Continuation* Number	Continuation* Rate	Graduation** Number	Graduation** Rate	Total Tracked
San Luis Obispo	1,741	284	.163	672	.386	.549
Fresno	1,377	215	.156	517	.375	.532
Chico	1,327	204	.154	486	.366	.520
Humboldt	859	165	.192	241	.281	.473
San Jose	2,122	404	.190	574	.270	.461
Stanislaus	232	38	.164	68	.293	.457
Fullerton	1,942	350	.180	529	.272	.453
Sacramento	1,293	221	.171	355	.275	.445
Systemwide	**26,093**	**4,875**	**.187**	**6,713**	**.257**	**.444**
Pomona	1,815	325	.179	479	.264	.443
San Diego	2,691	521	.194	644	.239	.433
San Francisco	1,723	345	.200	382	.222	.422
Long Beach	2,834	591	.209	600	.212	.420
Northridge	3,064	673	.220	615	.201	.420
Bakersfield	219	37	.169	45	.205	.374
Hayward	694	99	.143	160	.231	.373
San Bernardino	290	32	.110	76	.262	.372
Los Angeles	1,311	298	.227	163	.124	.352
Sonoma	197	25	.127	40	.203	.330
Dominguez Hills	362	48	.133	67	.185	.318

*Continuing as an undergraduate Fall 1983.
**Earning a bachelor's degree through 1982-83.

Source: California State University (1985), Table 13, page 12.

complete information does not exist for two of the campuses (Irvine and Santa Barbara). The information in Display 10 on page 9 shows that, for those campuses where information is available, the majority of students take more than four years to complete their degrees, time to degree is consistently shortest at Berkeley, and is the longest at San Diego and Santa Cruz. For instance, in 1985, the percentages of graduates who took only four years to complete their degree ranged from a high of 33.8 percent at Berkeley to a low of 21.3 percent at San Diego. In that same year, students who took five years to complete their degrees ranged from a high of 64.4 percent at Berkeley to a low of 40.8 percent at Santa Cruz. The percentage of graduating students who took six years to complete their degree ranged from 69.2 percent at Berkeley to 44.0 percent at Santa Cruz.

The rates of time to degree for underrepresented students are consistently lower than for white or Asian students on most campuses. The rates are

DISPLAY 10 *Ethnicity and Year Admitted of Regularly Admitted Freshmen Who Graduated in 1985 from the University of California* [a,b]

Ethnic Status / Entering Class / Time to Degree	Berkeley		Davis		Irvine		Los Angeles		Riverside		San Diego		Santa Barbara		Santa Cruz	
	%	N[c]	%	N[c]	%	N[c]	%	N[c]	%	N[c]	%	N[c]	%	N[c]	%	N[c]
American Indian																
Fall 1981	14.3%	7	21.4%	14	14.3%	7	33.3%	8	0.0%	2	16.6%	12	NA		NA	
Fall 1980	28.6	7	33.3	9	40.0	10	55.5	9	66.7	6	50.0	2	NA		NA	
Fall1979	28.6	7	57.1	7	--		42.9	14	50.0	2	NA		50.0%	8	NA	
Black																
Fall 1981	11.8	76	13.1	61	9.6	73	9.8	174	42.9	21	15.2	66	NA		9.4%	32
Fall 1980	37.0	92	30.3	33	17.6	74	47.0	132	61.1	18	33.9	56	NA		22.2	18
Fall 1979	42.0	100	36.2	47	--		46.0	150	52.2	23	NA		35.0	26	22.7	31
Chicano																
Fall 1981	11.8	85	27.3	66	13.0	69	9.9	142	31.0	29	12.0	83	NA		12.5	32
Fall 1980	43.8	89	46.3	54	36.9	103	35.4	130	30.4	23	22.0	77	NA		20.6	29
Fall 1979	57.3	82	51.0	51	--		43.9	157	60.0	35	NA		53.0	52	28.6	49
Latino																
Fall 1981	22.6	53	22.2	36	17.1	35	17.2	87	36.4	11	15.4	39	NA		8.3	12
Fall 1980	49.1	53	59.5	37	26.7	30	42.3	104	30.8	13	25.0	32	NA		11.1	9
Fall 1979	45.2	42	60.0	35	--		52.6	95	54.5	11	NA		62.0	15	31.5	19
Filipino																
Fall 1981	21.8	87	13.5	52	29.8	47	18.6	102	35.7	14	9.7	82	NA		NA	
Fall 1980	41.8	91	42.9	28	40.0	35	57.9	114	71.4	7	33.3	48	NA		NA	
Fall 1979	54.1	74	58.6	29	--		48.6	74	20.0	5	NA		29.0	7	NA	
Asian [d]																
Fall 1981	34.6	595	29.3	232	NA		24.9	803	40.0	60	20.7	208	NA		NA	
Fall 1980	67.5	581	68.7	267	NA		62.1	744	57.9	57	57.6	118	NA		NA	
Fall 1979	71.1	741	70.6	231	NA		66.6	707	63.4	41	NA		53.0	75	NA	
White/Caucasian																
Fall 1981	36.6	1,619	35.8	1,649	NA		30.7	2,433	37.6	386	22.9	1,440	NA		NA	
Fall 1980	67.6	1,776	59.0	1,850	NA		61.6	2,765	51.9	428	43.8	1,441	NA		NA	
Fall 1979	72.0	2,104	62.5	1,677	NA		65.1	2,787	54.9	437	NA		58.0	1,774	NA	
All Students [b]																
Fall 1981	33.8	2,690	33.3	2,228	NA		27.0	3,898	36.2	552	21.3	2,100	NA		23.2	899
Fall 1980	64.4	2,888	58.6	2,449	NA		59.4	4,147	51.9	567	43.6	1,936	NA		40.8	811
Fall 1979	69.2	3,527	61.6	2,151	NA		63.0	4,089	55.5	557	49.5	1,937	57.0	2,078	44.0	781

Notes: Please see bottom of page 10.

generally lowest for Black and American Indian students, followed by Chicano, Latino, Asian, and white students. An interesting exception to the rule is seen at Riverside, where minority students graduated at higher percentages and in shorter time periods than the other campuses. It is not known from this study what steps are being taken at Riverside to cause these differences.

As is the case for the State University, no information exists for the University about the effect of impacted majors on graduation rates, nor did the University conduct a sample study of students who took longer than four years to graduate in order to assess their reasons for their delay. In addition, the University has no systemwide information about different graduation rates for specially admitted students and for regularly admitted students, although it is developing a data system that should allow it to provide this information over the next year or two.

Priorities for improving data

The differences in information presented by the two universities make comparisons between them difficult, since the data are for different time periods and were gathered by different methodologies. Even if these technical problems were resolved, however, the two universities are, by their nature, so different in educational mission and type of student enrolled that caution should be used in making comparisons between them. For instance, in contrast to the University of California, the State University has made a policy decision to encourage enrollment from part-time students, and thus it can be expected to have a much longer time-to-degree rate than the University.

Nonetheless, the issue of time to degree is important in each segment. If the Legislature wishes to explore the issue more systematically, the Commission recommends three priorities for future research efforts:

1. *Effect of transfer on attrition and time to degree:* A minimum data-gathering effort should provide information on the relation of transfer to attrition and average time to degree -- among students who transfer from a University or State University campus to another campus or institution, as well as those who transfer to the University or State University from Community Colleges, or other institutions.

2. *Effect of impacted majors and course availability on attrition and time to degree:* The effect of impacted majors on graduation rates is a second legitimate question for the State to ask, since strategies to reduce the problem could be developed if it is determined to be severe. For comparable information to be gathered across campuses of California's two public universities, however, will require that the question of the effects of impaction on graduation must be refined, since there is no way to tell with available information if students are being turned away from courses that they must take to complete their majors. A case study

Notes to Display 10, page 9:

a. With one exception, these are regularly admitted freshmen entering from high school with 12.5 units or less of transferable credit. Fall 1979-80 figures for Riverside include an unknown number of students who entered the University with more than 12.5 units. All campus figures exclude AHSSP, EXAP, limited, special, or second-degree students.

b. Totals based on domestic student population with the exception of Berkeley, Riverside, and Santa Cruz, all of which also include foreign students in their tallies. Ethnic status available only for students who provided it. It should be noted that campuses differ with respect to the number of students who transfer to and from other University of California campuses. Thus, to some extent, the relatively high and low graduation rates across campuses will reflect these differences.

c. The figures under "N" refer to the total number of students who entered the University during the fall term of the specified year, while the percentages refer to the proportion of them who graduated in 1985. For example, seven American Indian students enrolled at Berkeley in Fall 1981, and 14.3 percent of this group (or one) had graduated by 1985.

d. For Berkeley, Davis, and Santa Cruz, this category includes "Chinese," "Japanese," "Korean," "Polynesian," and "Thai/Other Asian." For Irvine, Riverside, and Santa Barbara, "East Indian/Pakistani" has been added to these subgroups. For Los Angeles, all the foregoing subgroups have been included except "East Indian/Pakistani" and "Polynesian."

Source: Adapted from Table 2, University of California, January 1987.

of the experience of a sample of students in both universities could suggest the dimensions of the problem as well as strategies for dealing with it.

3. *Effect of admission status on attrition and time to degree:* In a parallel report to this one, the Commission raises questions about what is known in the State University regarding the effect of admission status on academic success (1987). While this issue is particularly significant for the State University in light of its impending changes in admission requirements, much more is known about it within the State University than in the University of California. Since the University has increased the number of students it admits with special status (a step now being contemplated by the State University as well), both the University and the State University should learn more about the graduation rates of their specially admitted students.

4. *Insight about time required to earn degrees at comparable public universities in other states:* Finally, as California policy makers discuss further the issues about the time required to earn undergraduate degrees at the University and the State University, both institutions should report on the experience of students attending comparable public institutions in other states.

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Senate Bill No. 2066

CHAPTER 991

An act relating to postsecondary education, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 20, 1986. Filed with Secretary of State September 22, 1986.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2066, Morgan. Postsecondary education: study of time required for completion of degree.

Existing law does not require the submission of a study of the amount of time required to attain an undergraduate degree by students who received an undergraduate degree between 1975 and 1985.

This bill would require the submission of such a study by the Trustees of the California State University, and by the Regents of the University of California, if the regents elect to conduct the study, to the California Postsecondary Education Commission by December 1, 1986. The bill would require the commission to review the study and make recommendations to the Governor and the education policy committees of the Legislature by March 15, 1987.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Trustees of the California State University shall submit to the California Postsecondary Education Commission, by December 1, 1986, a study of the time required to attain an undergraduate degree by students who received undergraduate degrees between the period 1975 and 1985, to the extent data is available. The commission shall review and comment on the study, and make recommendations to the Governor and the education policy committees of the Legislature on or before March 15, 1987.

(a) The study shall identify the number and proportion of undergraduate students, by campus and ethnicity, who (1) graduated in four academic years, (2) graduated in between four and five academic years, (3) graduated in more than five academic years, and (4) were confronted with impacted majors after completing their lower division coursework.

(b) The study shall include a sample of students who took more than four years to graduate, to determine the reasons for their delay in completing an undergraduate degree program.

SEC. 2. The Regents of the University of California shall submit to the California Postsecondary Education Commission, by

December 1, 1986, a study of the time required to attain an undergraduate degree by students who received undergraduate degrees between the period 1975 and 1985, to the extent data is available. The commission shall review and comment on the study, and make recommendations to the Governor and the education policy committees of the Legislature on or before March 15, 1987.

(a) The study shall identify the number and proportion of undergraduate students, by campus and ethnicity, who (1) graduated in four academic years, (2) graduated in between four and five academic years, (3) graduated in more than five academic years, and (4) were confronted with impacted majors after completing their lower division coursework.

(b) The study shall include a sample of students who took more than four years to graduate, to determine the reasons for their delay in completing an undergraduate degree program.

(c) No provision of this section shall apply to the University of California unless the Regents of the University of California, by resolution, make that provision applicable.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order that the persistence study required by this act be completed as expeditiously as possible so that important issues involving the quality of undergraduate education at California's public colleges and universities may be addressed, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

O

CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION

THE California Postsecondary Education Commission is a citizen board established in 1974 by the Legislature and Governor to coordinate the efforts of California's colleges and universities and to provide independent, non-partisan policy analysis and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

Members of the Commission

The Commission consists of 15 members. Nine represent the general public, with three each appointed for six-year terms by the Governor, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Speaker of the Assembly. The other six represent the major segments of postsecondary education in California.

As of March 1987, the Commissioners representing the general public are:

Seth P. Brunner, Sacramento
C. Thomas Dean, Long Beach, *Chairperson*
Seymour M. Farber, M.D., San Francisco
Cruz Reynoso, Los Angeles
Lowell J. Paige, El Macero
Roger C. Pettitt, Los Angeles
Sharon N. Skog, Mountain View, *Vice Chairperson*
Thomas E. Stang, Los Angeles
Stephen P. Teale, M.D., Mokelumne Hill

Representatives of the segments are:

Yori Wada, San Francisco; representing the Regents of the University of California

Claudia H. Hampton, Los Angeles; representing the Trustees of the California State University

Arthur H. Margosian, Fresno; representing the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

Donald A. Henricksen, San Marino; representing California's independent colleges and universities

Harry Wugalter, Thousand Oaks; representing the Council for Private Postsecondary Educational Institutions

Angie Papadakis, Palos Verdes; representing the California State Board of Education

Functions of the Commission

The Commission is charged by the Legislature and Governor to "assure the effective utilization of public postsecondary education resources, thereby eliminating waste and unnecessary duplication, and to promote diversity, innovation, and responsiveness to student and societal needs."

To this end, the Commission conducts independent reviews of matters affecting the 2,600 institutions of postsecondary education in California, including Community Colleges, four-year colleges, universities, and professional and occupational schools.

As an advisory planning and coordinating body, the Commission does not administer or govern any institutions, nor does it approve, authorize, or accredit any of them. Instead, it cooperates with other state agencies and non-governmental groups that perform these functions, while operating as an independent board with its own staff and its own specific duties of evaluation, coordination, and planning,

Operation of the Commission

The Commission holds regular meetings throughout the year at which it debates and takes action on staff studies and takes positions on proposed legislation affecting education beyond the high school in California. By law, the Commission's meetings are open to the public. Requests to address the Commission may be made by writing the Commission in advance or by submitting a request prior to the start of a meeting.

The Commission's day-to-day work is carried out by its staff in Sacramento, under the guidance of its executive director, William H. Pickens, who is appointed by the Commission.

The Commission issues some 30 to 40 reports each year on major issues confronting California postsecondary education. Recent reports are listed on the back cover.

Further information about the Commission, its meetings, its staff, and its publications may be obtained from the Commission offices at 1020 Twelfth Street, Third Floor, Sacramento, CA 98514-3985; telephone (916) 445-7933.

TIME REQUIRED TO EARN THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE
California Postsecondary Education Commission Report 87-14

ONE of a series of reports published by the Commission as part of its planning and coordinating responsibilities. Additional copies may be obtained without charge from the Publications Office, California Postsecondary Education Commission, Third Floor, 1020 Twelfth Street, Sacramento, California 98514-3985.

Recent reports of the Commission include:

87-2 Women and Minorities in California Public Postsecondary Education: Their Employment, Classification, and Compensation, 1975-1985. The Fourth in the Commission's Series of Biennial Reports on Equal Employment Opportunities in California's Public Colleges and Universities (February 1987)

87-3 Issues Related to Funding of Research at the University of California: A Report to the Legislature in Response to Supplemental Language in the 1985 Budget Act (February 1987)

87-4 The California State University's South Orange County Satellite Center: A Report to the Governor and Legislature in Response to a Request from the California State University for Funds to Operate an Off-Campus Center in Irvine (February 1987)

87-5 Proposed Construction of San Diego State University's North County Center: A Report to the Governor and Legislature in Response to a Request for Capital Funds from the California State University to Build a Permanent Off-Campus Center of San Diego State University in San Marcos (February 1987)

87-6 Interim Evaluation of the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP): A Report with Recommendations to the California Student Aid Commission (February 1987)

87-7 Conversations About Financial Aid: Statements and Discussion at a Commission Symposium on Major Issues and Trends in Postsecondary Student Aid (February 1987)

87-8 California Postsecondary Education Commission News, Number 2 [The second issue of the Commission's periodic newsletter] (February 1987)

87-9 Expanding Educational Equity in California's Schools and Colleges: A Review of Existing and Proposed Programs, 1986-87. A Report to the California Postsecondary Education Commission by Juan C.Gonzalez and Sylvia Hurtado of the Higher Education Research Institute, UCLA. January 20, 1987 (February 1987)

87-10 Overview of the 1987-88 Governor's Budget for Postsecondary Education in California, Presented to the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1 by William H. Pickens, Executive Director, California Postsecondary Education Commission (March 1987)

87-11 The Doctorate in Education. Issues of Supply and Demand in California (87)

87-12 Student Public Service and the "Human Corps": A Report to the Legislature in Response to Assembly Concurrent Resolution 158 (Chapter 165 of the Statutes of 1986) (March 1987)

87-13 Standardized Tests Used for Higher Education Admission and Placement in California During 1986: The Second in a Series of Annual Reports Published in Accordance with Senate Bill 1758 (Chapter 1505, Statutes of 1984) (March 1987)

87-15 Comments on the Report of the California State University Regarding the Potential Effects of Its 1988 Course Requirements: A Report to the Legislature in Response to Assembly Concurrent Resolution 158 (Chapter 165 of the Statutes of 1986) (March 1987)

87-16 Changes in California State Oversight of Private Postsecondary Education Institutions: A Staff Report to the California Postsecondary Education Commission (March 1987)

87-17 Faculty Salaries in California's Public Universities, 1987-88: The Commission's 1986 Report to the Legislature and Governor in Response to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 51 (1965) (March 1987)

87-18 Funding Excellence in California Higher Education: A Report in Response to Assembly Concurrent Resolution 141 (1986) (March 1987)

87-19 The Class of '83 One Year Later: A Report on Follow-Up Surveys from the Commission's 1983 High School Eligibility Study (3/87)

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